

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6599**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1620

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 15, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Trucks, Safety Belts, and Road and Street Account.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Oxley

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that money in the Local Road and Street Account (LR&S) must be distributed among counties according to the ratio of each county's passenger car and pickup truck registrations to the total passenger car and pickup truck registrations in Indiana. (Under current law, pickup truck registrations are disregarded in the distribution formula.) It phases in the change in distribution.

The bill requires a front seat passenger of a pickup truck to wear a safety belt. This bill defines a pickup truck as a motor vehicle of not more than 11,000 pounds that is registered as a truck. It makes conforming amendments.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Seat Belt Requirement:* With the proposed change, more vehicles now will be subject to the requirement of wearing a seat belt. Based on CY 2004 registrations, approximately 1.4 million additional vehicles (an approximate 37% increase) now will be subject to the seat belt law, a violation of which is a Class D Infraction with a \$25 fine which is deposited into the state General Fund. In CY 2005, there were 92,033 guilty violations for not wearing a seat belt.

*Data and Analysis:* For CY 2004, 1.403 million trucks with a gross weight of not more than 11,000 pounds and 3.78 million passenger cars were registered with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The estimated seat belt violations for CY 2004 are provided in the following table.

	Registered Vehicles In CY 2004	Seat Belt Violations
Passenger Cars	3,781,028	92,033
Trucks	1,403,256	34,156 *
* Estimated figure based on proportion of seatbelt violations to registered passenger cars in CY 2004		

Although the number of additional citations and fines will depend on compliance and enforcement, the number of vehicles subject to seat belt use, based on vehicle registrations, could increase by almost 36,000. If additional court cases occur and infraction judgments are collected, revenue to the state General Fund may increase. The maximum judgment for a Class D infraction is \$25, which is deposited in the state General Fund. This would represent new revenue of approximately \$854,000.

If a criminal action, infraction, or ordinance violation involves a traffic violation, including this proposed offense, a highway work zone fee of either 50 cents or \$25.50 is also assessed.

#### **Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Local Road and Street Account Distribution:* Including pickup trucks in the Local Road and Street Account distribution formula will change the amount of LR&S funds received by counties and will favor those counties with more pickup trucks at the expense of those with fewer pickup trucks in relation to the total number of passenger cars and pickup trucks registered in Indiana.

This proposal does not increase the amount of funds to be distributed, but rather redistributes the funds among the counties. For FY 2006, approximately \$74.8 M were distributed through the LR&S to local units. Including pickup trucks in the LR&S distributions to the 659 recipient units results in 528 units with increases and 131 units with decreases. It phases in the change over a four-year period. The total dollars shifted are estimated at \$3.242 M after full implementation.

#### **State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Those units which receive distributions from the Local Road and Street Account.

#### **Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** James Sperlik, 317-232-9866.